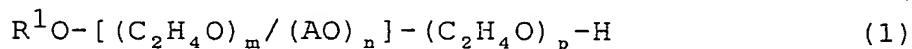


ABSTRACT

A nonionic surfactant comprising an aliphatic alcohol alkylene oxide adduct (A), directly produced by adding an alkylene oxide (b1) to an aliphatic alcohol (a1),
5 and satisfying the following (i), (ii) and (iii):

(i) comprising one compound, or a mixture of two or more



(ii) having a ratio M_w/M_n within the specific range; and

10 (iii) having a distribution constant (c), determined by the following equation (4), of 1.0 or less:

$$c = (v + n_0/n_{00} - 1) / [\ln(n_{00}/n_0) + n_0/n_{00} - 1] \quad (4).$$

This invention provides an aliphatic alcohol alkylene oxide adduct, having surface activities comparable to
15 alkylphenol-based nonionic surfactants and moreover having no fear of environmental endocrine disrupters like alkylphenol-based nonionic surfactants.

This invention provides a detergent composition using the above anionic surfactant and having excellent detergency.